



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services



Philip L. Browning
Director

HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE (HPI): ADULT MOVE-IN COSTS PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The HPI: Adult Move-in Cost Program is designed to assist with securing permanent housing for current and former *General Relief (GR)* and/or Food Stamp participants. This Program is modeled after the DPSS CalWORKs Moving Assistance Program implemented in April 2004. Implementation of the Program was effective March 29, 2007.

In December 2005, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to endorse a homeless prevention strategy based on a compilation of recommendations from all County departments to effectively address homelessness. A critical component of this strategy included the Homeless and Housing Program fund, which may be utilized to subsidize supportive service programs associated with securing appropriate housing. The HPI is one of the many programs utilizing this funding.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

For many individuals, the financial obligation associated with move-in costs is often the barrier to obtaining permanent housing. Monetary assistance made available to secure permanent housing, will assist individuals who lack other financial resources. The objective of the Program includes the following goals for current and former GR and/or Food Stamp participants:

- Decrease in the number of individuals on the streets and in shelters;
- Increased community support;
- Increase in permanent housing (residential stability) to eligible individuals; and
- Connect eligible individuals to HPI: Adult Move-In Costs Program funds.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Program is limited to single adults exiting emergency/transitional shelters or similar temporary group housing and who are: 1) currently receiving GR and/or Food Stamp benefits and have sufficient ongoing income to sustain the monthly rent; or 2) previously received GR and/or Food Stamp benefits (within the last two years), who have sufficient ongoing income to sustain the monthly rent.

Program guidelines also include the following:

- Referrals from emergency/transitional shelters must initiate all Program requests;
- Rent amounts must not exceed 80% of the monthly gross income;
- Funds may only be issued before requestor moves in and are not subject for reimbursement purposes after requestor moved in;
- Funds are available to individuals with a legitimate and verifiable rental housing opportunity;
- Funds are limited as **once-in-a-lifetime** issuances;
- Total funds will not exceed \$800; and
- All current and former GR and/or Food Stamp participants; hereafter referred to as participants/requestors, must be fingerprinted via the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System to verify identity and to prevent duplicate issuances.

Move-in costs funds will be provided to participants/requestors upon request and will include the following expenses:

- Last month's rent;
- Security deposits;
- Other required move-in costs/deposits (e.g., key deposits, etc.);
- Utility deposits/turn on fees;
- Moving expenses (truck rental);
- Overdue storage fees at a legitimate storage facility;
- Appliances; i.e., refrigerators and stoves only, if the rental lacks the appliance; and
- Any required miscellaneous expenses. (For clarification, contact GR Program staff.)

Any required funds for the first month's rent are the responsibility of the participant/requestor.

PROGRAM DISTRICTS AND DESIGNATED ELIGIBILITY STAFF

Districts selected to implement the HPI: Adult Move-In Costs Program service the largest populations within each Supervisorial District. The six Project Districts include: 1) Civic Center; 2) Metro Special; 3) Southwest Special; 4) South Special; 5) Rancho Park; and 6) Lancaster. Designated Eligibility staff for each District office have been trained to receive, approve or deny all Program requests.

FUNDING

The total projected annual cost of the Project is \$1,100,000. Included in the Program's proposed annual cost is \$100,000 for staffing.